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Systems and methods for enhancing the stability of a mode-locked laser's output are disclosed. The laser systems include a mode-locking element that mode-locks the laser's output, and a semiconductor element. The semiconductor element produces a loss at the laser's operative wavelength that increases as pulse energy increases, thereby enhancing the stability of the mode-locked output. The semiconductor elements can be used to enhance stability of both passively and actively mode-locked laser systems.

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